

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH TO NORTH EXPEDITION: JOHN MCDOUALL STUART AND HIS PARTY

By Dr Bev Phelts



John McDouall Stuart at the
northern sea

Members of Stuart's sixth expedition:

Back left: William Auld, John Billiatt, Francis Thring.

Front left: James Frew, William Kekwick, Frederick George Waterhouse & Stephen King Jr.

Absent: John McDouall Stuart, Heath Nash, John McGorrery.

Date of photo unknown. Photograph courtesy State Library of South Australia

This report compiles all the Darwin and Top End activities that took place to mark the great achievement by Stuart and his party.

John McDouall Stuart and his party officially set out on the 25 October 1861 from North Adelaide, on his sixth expedition. This was Stuart's third and ultimately successful attempt to reach northern Australia.

The Expedition completed the first European crossing of Australia, from Adelaide to Van Diemen Gulf, passing through the centre of the Continent, and returning along the same route without loss of life.

Members of the Party

- John McDouall Stuart, Commander (aged 46, born Dysart, Fifeshire, Scotland)
- William Darton Kekwick, Second in Command (aged 38 born East Ham, Essex, England)
- Francis William Thring, Third Officer (aged 24 born Netherton, England)
- William Patrick Auld, Assistant (aged 21 born Stalybridge, near Manchester, England)
- Stephen King Jnr. (aged 19 born Kingsford near Gawler South Australia)
- John William Billiatt (aged 19 born Honington, Lincolnshire, England)
- James Frew Jnr. (aged 21 born Adelaide, South Australia)
- Heath Nash, Cook (aged 23 born Adelaide, South Australia)
- John McGorrery, Shoeing Smith (aged 23 born County Tyrone, Ireland)
- Frederick George Waterhouse, Naturalist (aged 46 born London, England)

Reaching Central Mt Stuart

Three months later, they reached the site of Stuart's former camp at Newcastle Waters. He rested the horses for a week before facing the battle to cross Sturt's Plains which had defeated him on his previous expedition. Stuart made many scouting trips ahead and eventually discovered a series of waterholes, creeks, springs and rivers, which he named after his companions.

On Thursday, 24 July 1862, Stuart recorded:-

"Stopped the horses to clear a way, whilst I advanced a few yards on to the beach, and was gratified and delighted to behold the water of the Indian Ocean in Van Diemen's Gulf....I returned to the valley, where I had my initials cut on a large tree (J.M.D.S.)" Stuart's tree later burnt down in 1902.

The following day, exactly nine months since leaving Adelaide, the British Flag (Union Jack) was raised on the northern shore at Chambers Bay, east of present day Darwin. Now named Point Stuart.

The party now faced a return journey of 3400 kilometres along the same route and this journey rates as one of the greatest feats of survival in Australian European exploration.

The men and horses were weary from the nine months travelling, camping out in the open and surviving on severely limited rations and poor water. Stuart's journal for the return contains a vivid record of his sufferings. The years of continual hardship on his many trips, with only brief intervals between, were now taking their toll.

Stuart's eye-sight failed and Auld, a cadet surveyor, was required to take the observations. Auld also nursed Stuart and, in later years, was moved to tears when he recalled the suffering experienced by Stuart. When Stuart could no longer ride, McGorrery, the blacksmith, constructed a stretcher mounted between two long poles and Stuart was carried some 960 kilometres between two horses.

The devotion, care and assistance of the men Stuart called his Companions saved his life and he finally reached Adelaide on 17 December 1862. Of the 72 horses that left Chambers Creek, 48 returned to Adelaide.

Return to Adelaide

While Adelaide celebrated, the people of Melbourne stood in silent tribute as the bodies of Burke and Wills were laid to rest. What should have been a joyful home-coming for Stuart was tempered by the news that his best friend, James Chambers, had died on 7 August 1862.

After the initial excitement of the great celebration had waned, Stuart found himself without home or family. He had given everything he had to give to achieve his aim, and his life now seemed empty. He turned to William Finke for assistance but tragically, Finke died on 18 January 1864 and although John Chambers was supportive, Stuart decided to return to England. He sailed from Port Adelaide in April 1864 on the *Indus*. Stuart died on 5 June 1866, aged fifty years and was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, London.¹

This report was written by Bev Phelts, Darwin, Northern Territory, 2012.

¹ Information provided by the John McDouall Stuart Society, Adelaide

Date	Program of Darwin Events – July 2012
Friday 20 July	Auguste Blackman Art Exhibition - John McDouall Stuart – An Unsung Hero. The exhibition will be opened by well known local historian, Peter Forrest. Open to the public. It will be held at Framed The Darwin Gallery, 55 Stuart Highway, Stuart Park.
Monday 23 July	Federation of Australian Historical Societies AGM
Monday 23 July	<p>National Trust talk on the south to north expedition undertaken by Stuart and his party. Speaker will be local historian, Robyn Smith. Event will be held in the National Trust Myilly Point houses.</p> <p>Bar will be open and a sausage sizzle will follow the talk. Entry \$10 for the sausage sizzle.</p> <p>Professor Don Garden, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies will launch the Historical Society's latest publication - <i>Distant Settlements: Convicts in Remote Australia</i> by Ted Street</p>
Tuesday 24 July	Day trip to Pt Stuart to mark the day and time that Stuart arrived (11am). Reenactment of flag raising and speeches will accompany champagne toasts.
Wednesday 25 July	<p>Darwin City Council Commemorative Event in Raintree Park, The Mall, around the statue of Stuart</p> <p>The event will include a range of speakers and reenactments</p> <p>A "morning tea" will be held for the public</p>
Wednesday 25 July	<p>Sunset cruise on Darwin Harbour in an old pearling lugger.</p> <p>Cost p/p \$70 and includes nibbles and a complimentary bubbly/wine.</p> <p>BYO alcohol/drinks</p>

<p>Thursday 26 July</p>	<p>Crossing the Continent with John McDouall Stuart and Charles Todd Exhibition Philip Jones, Senior Curator South Australia Museum and winner of the Chief Minister's NT History Book Award and the Prime Minister's Book Award for <i>Ochre and Rust</i> will speak at the NT Library, Parliament House. He will speak about the background to Charles Todd's axe which is on display.</p> <p>Following the talk, the Crossing the Continent Exhibition will officially open.</p>
<p>Friday 27 July</p>	<p>Two plaque unveiling ceremonies - Where the Mary River crosses the Kakadu and Arnhem Highways (near the Mary River Roadhouse and the Bark Hut) - to mark the place where Stuart and his party passed on the exact same day 150 years ago. Organised by Trevor Horman, Engineers Heritage Australia, Friends of the Northern Australian Railway and the John McDouall Stuart Society</p>

Framed Gallery - John McDouall Stuart – An Unsung Hero” Art Exhibition

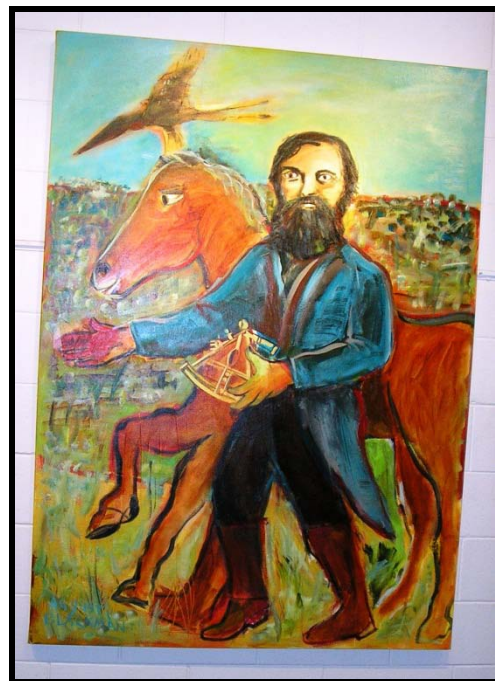
The lively program of events for “Stuart” week kicked off with an art exhibition at Framed Gallery, Stuart Park. Auguste Blackman’s Art Exhibition titled “John McDouall Stuart – An Unsung Hero” was opened by well known local historian, Peter Forrest.



From left: Robin & Anne Wait, Steve Rose, Peter Forrest & Reg Wilson



Margaret Cook & Graham Thring – descendants of Francis Thring who was a member of Stuart’s party.



Dinner at Seafood on Cullen, Cullen Bay

On Sunday night, a dinner was held at Seafood on Cullen with executive members from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS).



From left: Janie Mason; Ruth Kerr, FAHS President; Helen Henderson; Wendy & Don Garden, David Carment; Lyn & Brian Reid.

National Trust talk- John McDouall Stuart: Drunk or Demented? by Robyn Smith

On Monday night, Robin Smith gave us a thought provoking view on Stuart - a drunkard or demented man! The National Trust talk was followed with Professor Don Garden, past President of the FAHS, launching the Historical Society's latest publication - *Distant Settlements: Convicts in Remote Australia* by Ted Street. At the end of the formalities was a nice surprise for Wendy Carter of the Kununurra & NT Historical Society, who was presented with a Fellowship from the FAHS for her great work in Australian history.



Professor Don Garden launching *Distant Settlements*. Robyn Smith in background



Wendy Carter congratulated by FAHS President, Dr Ruth Kerr

The evening attracted an enthusiastic crowd - it was a packed house with the audience spilling outside.



The end to the fabulous evening was topped off with a BBQ.



Judy Boland cooking up the sausages



Brian Reid serving the wine

Pt Stuart Day Trip

Tuesday was the trip to Pt Stuart to mark 150 years to the day and time that Stuart and his party arrived at the northern sea.



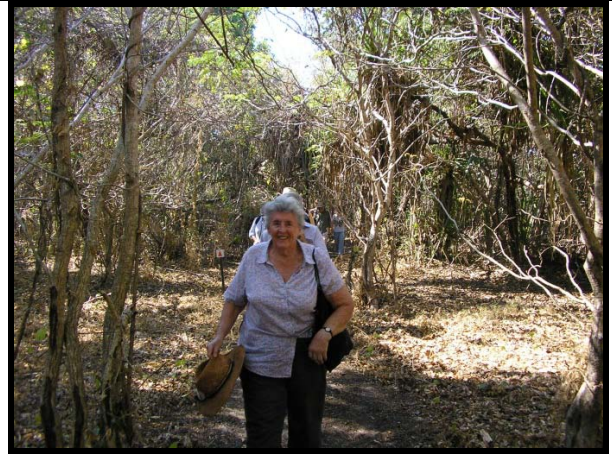
Morning tea at Pt Stuart Fishing camp



Caroline Cavanagh left with the Thring clan



On the track to the Point. Penny Baird leading the way



Judy Boland on the track



At the Cairn, left: Steve Rose, Lynne Nicholson, Helen Henderson, Lennie McCall & Robin Wait



Flag raising ceremony, speeches and champagne toasts at Pt Stuart.



Graham Thring (descendent of Francis Thring) reading his speech



Bev Phelts and Jim Stuart (Stuart's great, great, great nephew)



Graham Thring and Jim Stuart raise the Union Jack



The Cairn where Stuart's tree once stood



From left: Julie Mastin, Judy Richardson & Penny Baird



Jim Stuart "washing his face and hands and dipping his feet in the northern sea" as Stuart did.



Graham Thring & Jim Stuart



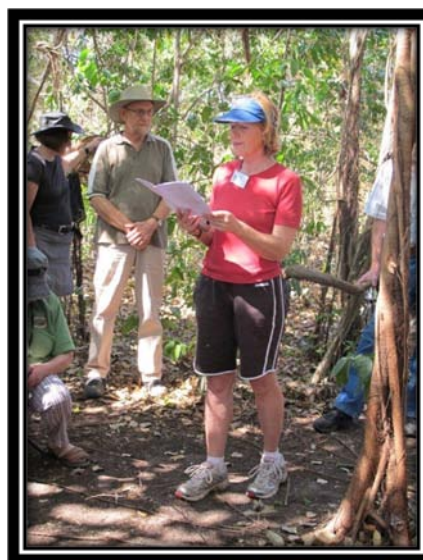
Graham Thring & Bev Phelts



Julie Mastin, Bev Phelts & Judy Richardson



Jim Stuart reading his speech



Bev Phelts reading extracts from Stuart's diary 24 & 25 July 1862.



Yvonne Forrest pouring the champagne for the toasts



Graham Thring pointing to Thring Ponds named after his ancestor



Robin Wait



Graham Thring & Jim Stuart



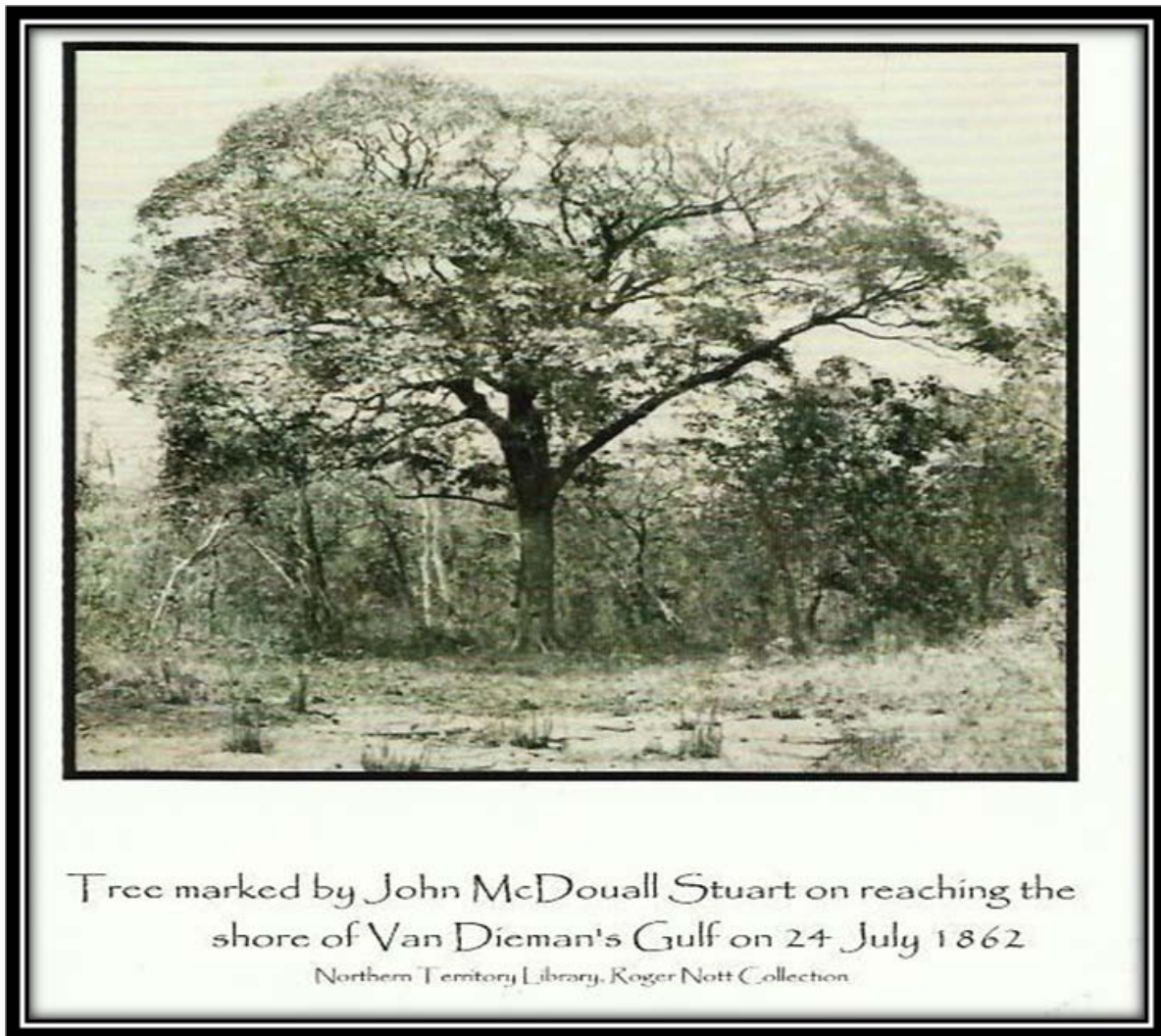
From left: Julie Mastin, Judy Richardson & Penny Baird



From left: Bev Phelts, Jim & Maureen Stuart

Sponsors for the Pt Stuart trip

The Historical Society thanks the Heritage Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Sport and the Arts for a grant. The grant has enabled the public to participate in this event and keep our history alive. Also Big Thanks to Ron Strachan, Flagman, Edmunds Street, Darwin for the loan of a Union Jack.



Stuart's Tree souvenir booklet produced by Robin & Anne Wait

Darwin City Council Function

The Darwin City Council held a celebration in Raintree Park on Wednesday 25 July and provided a wonderful morning tea for the public.



The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin
Ms Katrina Fong Lim

has pleasure inviting

Ms Bev Phelts

**To commemorate 150 years since the arrival of John McDouall Stuart
on Australia's northern shore, at a public celebration on
Wednesday 25 July 2012**

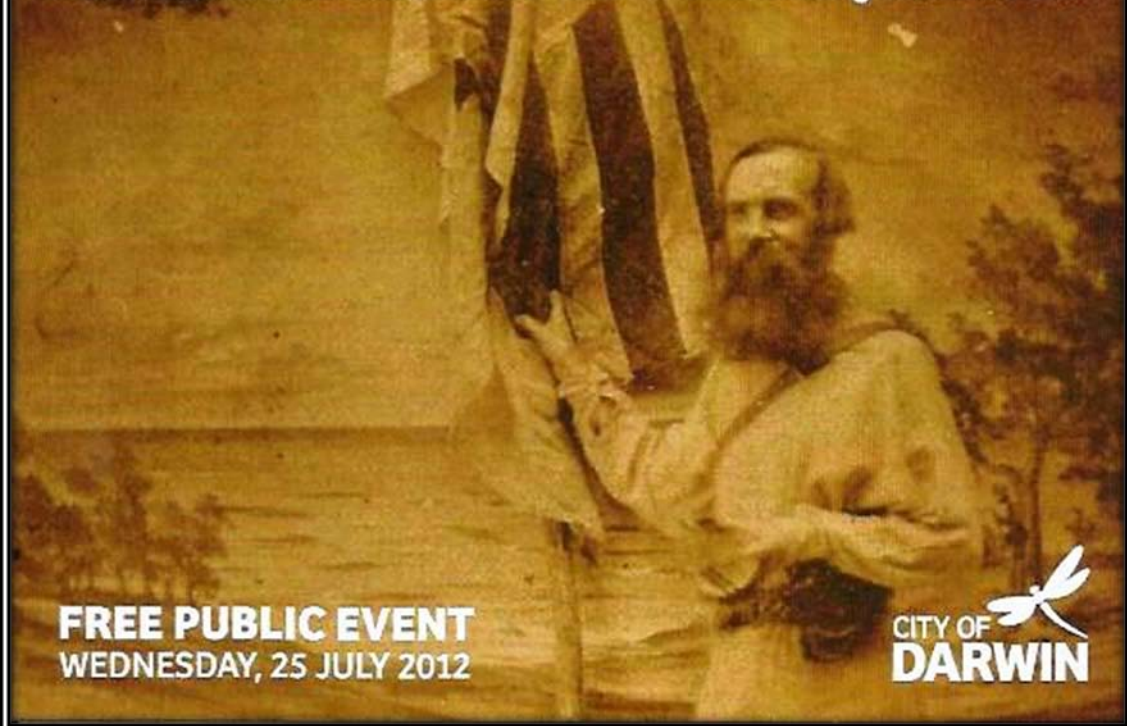
Join the procession from Bicentennial Park at 11:30am
then meet at Raintree Park at 12:15pm for activities and refreshments

Please respond by Wednesday 18 July 2012

☎ 08 8930 0409 or Email: c.szegedi@darwin.nt.gov.au

Dress: Territory Rig

John McDouall Stuart 150 Year Anniversary Celebration



FREE PUBLIC EVENT
WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2012


**CITY OF
DARWIN**



John McDouall Stuart 150 Year Anniversary Celebration

- 11.30 am Muster Point for Procession in **Bicentennial Park**
(The Esplanade, opposite Herbert Street)
- Procession departs at 12 noon
- 12 noon Assembly of guests in **Raintree Park**
(corner of The Mall – Smith Street and Knuckey Street)
- Opening remarks by the MC, Mr Earl B.M. James AM
- Arrival of the Procession at Raintree Park
- Re-enactment of the Arrival of John McDouall Stuart and his party on
Australia's northern shore
- Welcome to Country by Larrakia representative Ms Ali Mills
- Welcome by the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin
Katrina Fong Lim
- Speakers:*
- Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas AM, Administrator of the
Northern Territory
- The Honourable Jane Aagaard MLA, Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly
- Mr Dean Harris, Vice-President of the John McDouall Stuart Society
- Dr Brian Reid, President of the Historical Society NT
- Closing remarks by the MC

Please join us for refreshments and live music by the Top End Folk Club.



The procession from the Esplanade to Raintree Park.

NT Chief Surveyor, Garry West as Stuart led the way with Robert Walter and Tracy Barcroft behind



The procession coming up Knuckey Street



Official speakers – from left: Austin Asche; Dr Brian Reid, President Historical Society; Wendy James; Jane Aagaard, Member for Nightcliff; Sally Thomas, NT Administrator & Katrina Fong Lim, Darwin Lord Mayor. Earl James was the Master of Ceremonies.



Raintree Park audience with the statue of Stuart in the background



The procession up Knuckey Street



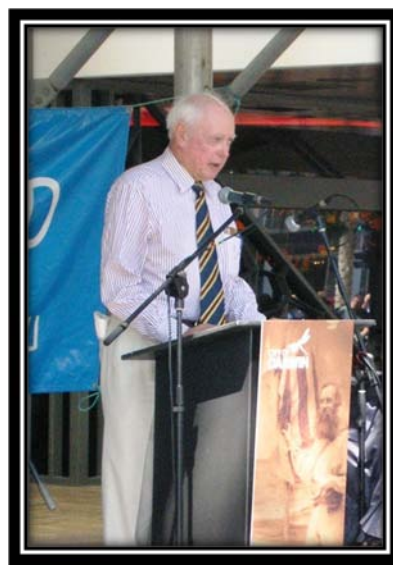
The NT Administrator, Sally Thomas



Garry West reading from Stuart's diary



Dr Brian Reid, President of the Historical Society of the NT



Dean Harris of the John McDouall Stuart Society, Adelaide

John McDouall Stuart 150 Year Anniversary Celebration

FREE PUBLIC EVENT WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2012

Join the procession to Raintree Park to celebrate this historical event

- Muster Point for Procession
11.30 am Bicentennial Park
(The Esplanade, opposite Herbert Street)
- 12.15 pm Raintree Park (Smith Street)
Re-enactment of the arrival of John McDouall Stuart
and his party on Australia's northern shore
- Free entertainment including children's activities
- Refreshments provided
- School groups welcome



www.darwin.nt.gov.au

www.johnmcdouallstuart.org.au



City of Darwin

Temporary Road Closure John McDouall Stuart 150 Year Anniversary Celebration

The City of Darwin wishes to advise that on Wednesday 25 July 2012 between 12noon and 12.15pm, Knuckey Street from Bicentennial Park (The Esplanade) to Raintree Park (The Mall, Smith Street) will be closed for a procession of people and horses, in celebration of the John McDouall Stuart 150 Year Anniversary.

Council thanks you in advance for your understanding.

Brendan Dowd
Chief Executive Officer



Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin
www.darwin.nt.gov.au

CITY OF
DARWIN

TODAY! From 11.30am

John McDouall Stuart 150 Year Anniversary Celebration



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- Muster Point for Procession
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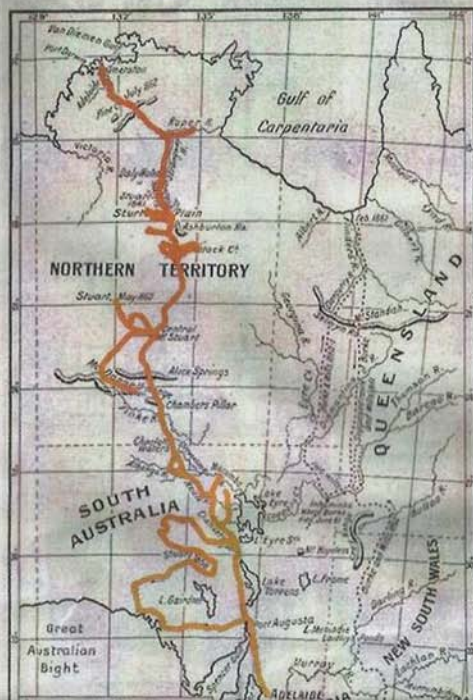
www.johnmcdouallstuart.org.au

Image: State Library of South Australia Collection

CITY OF
DARWIN

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, NT NEWS. 15+

Stuart's achievement



THE City of Darwin today will commemorate the achievements of explorer John McDouall Stuart during a lunchtime public event in the CBD.

The event marks 150 years since Stuart arrived on Australia's northern shore with 10 men and 70 horses, the first successful expedition by a European explorer to cross the continent from south to north.

A procession, including members of the NT Mounted Police and Fannie Bay Equestrian Club representing the original party of men and horses, will travel from Bicentennial Park down Knuckey St to Raintree Park.

The procession will end with a re-enactment of Stuart's arrival, including hoisting of the flag and a reading from Stuart's diary.

Scottish-born Stuart (1815-1886) immigrated to Australia at the tender age of 23 and established himself as a surveyor based out of the newly settled town of Adelaide.

He joined Captain Charles Sturt's expedition to central Australia in 1844, gaining valuable experience and earning Sturt's commendation.

Between 1858 and 1863, Stuart led six expeditions prospecting for new pastoral land and attempting to unlock a path



through the centre of the continent. On his sixth expedition, he reached the northern coast of Australia on July 24, 1862.

Stuart returned to his home

in Dysart, Scotland, near the end of his life, ill and almost blind, where he died in 1886 at the age of 70.

Representatives from the Northern Territory Government, the John McDouall Stuart Society and Historical Society NT will speak at today's event in Raintree Park, honouring Stuart's life and achievements.

The Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim will open the event.

Visiting Darwin especially to mark the event will be descendants of the members of Stuart's expedition party and descendants of Stuart's great-grand-niece Mona Stuart Webster, who authored the acclaimed 1958 biography of John McDouall Stuart.

The event is open to the public and all are welcome.

Seating will be available and refreshments will be served from noon, with live music provided by the Top End Folk Club and children's activities.

"Stuart's victory was all his own; he had followed in no other person's footsteps; he had crossed the true centre, and he had made the coast at a point much further north than his rivals," said explorer and historian Ernest Favenc, from the John McDouall Stuart Society.

TODAY! From 11.30am

John McDouall Stuart 150th

NEWS

Discovering paradise

By CONOR BYRNE
Local Government Reporter

DARWIN commemorated one of the most significant moments in the Top End's history yesterday.

This week marked 150 years since pioneer John McDouall Stuart reached the Australian north coast, making him the first explorer to cross the continent from south to north.

Stuart's final expedition departed Adelaide on October 25, 1861.

He arrived at what is now known as Point Stuart on July 24, 1862, before raising the Union Jack on a stripped mango tree at Chambers Bay a day later.

About 60 people attended a ceremony at Point Stuart on Tuesday before festivities to mark the event got into full swing in Darwin yesterday.

Stuart's great-grand-nephew Jim Stuart, who lives in Newcastle, NSW, attended the ceremony at Point Stuart with about 60 others on Tuesday.

The 57-year-old retiree spent his working life as an engineer like his ancestor.

"Reliving the family history — it's a bit of sentimentality," he said. "I think he would be a bit shocked."

HE SAID IT



It's great to re-enact the father of the Territory

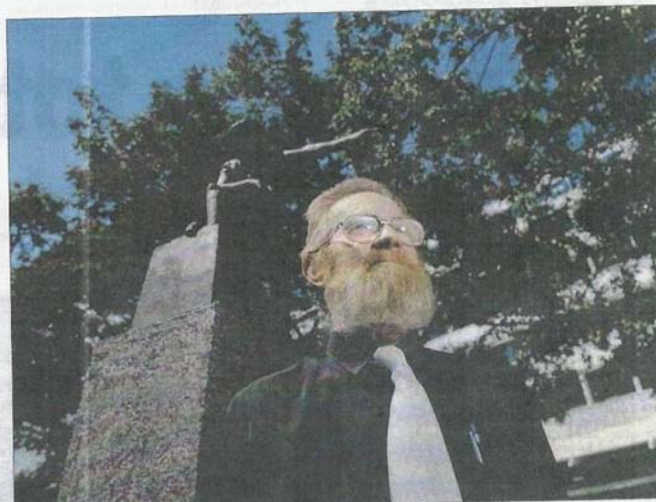
Stuart's modern-day equivalent, NT Surveyor General Garry West, re-created the explorer's great moment as he walked with horses from Darwin Oval down Knuckey St and to the statue as part of the ceremony.

Mr West said: "It's great to re-enact the father of the Territory."

There was some debate about whether the celebration to mark the anniversary of Stuart's arrival should have been held yesterday or on Tuesday.

Darwin Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim said the John McDouall Stuart Society had asked the council to celebrate the day he raised the flag — and not the day that he reached the sea.

"The 25th is the day he raised the flag — and the 25th is the day we're celebrating," she said.



Jim Stuart, a descendant of the explorer John McDouall Stuart, in Raintree Park yesterday

Picture: ELISE DEWITT



Raintree Park. Stuart's statue in the background



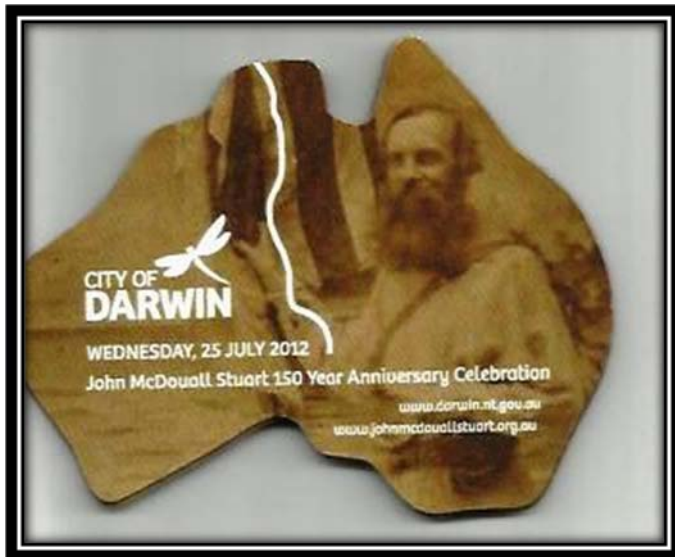
The crowd at Bicentennial Park waiting for the procession to commence






Jane Aagaard, Member for Nightcliff



Raising the Union Jack



Fridge magnet produced by the Darwin City Council

CROSSING THE CONTINENT

with John McDouall Stuart and Charles Todd

John McDouall Stuart crossed the continent on foot, charting a route from south to north, and Charles Todd led the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line from north to south. These two feats of human endeavour were crucial to the development of the Northern Territory; they were events that demonstrated the dogged persistence and determination that helped form the Territory as we know it today.

This exhibition celebrates the 150th and 140th anniversaries of these two great Australian milestones.

Maps, documents, historical artefacts, sketches and photos from the collections of the Northern Territory Library, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Adelaide River Railway Museum, State Library of South Australia and the South Australian Museum are on display.

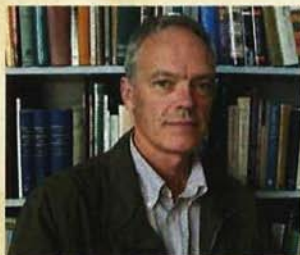
Free exhibition open to the public.

Exhibition - 20 July - 30 September 2012
Northern Territory Library, Parliament House

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A lifestyle network
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EVENING TALK & EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Reflections on Stuart's Aboriginal encounters and Charles Todd's axe by Philip Jones



Philip Jones, Senior Curator
South Australian Museum

Philip Jones, winner of the Chief Minister's NT History Book Award and the Prime Minister's Book Award for *Ochre and Rust*, will use a remarkable relic of Charles Todd's, an Aboriginal axe, to retrace the encounters between Aboriginal people and John McDouall Stuart, then later Charles Todd as they crossed the Australian continent.

Following the talk, the 'Crossing the Continent' with John McDouall Stuart and Charles Todd Exhibition will then be officially opened.

Free event open to the public.

Booking preferred 1800 019 155 or libraryevents@nt.gov.au

Thursday 26 July 5:15pm
Northern Territory Library, Parliament House



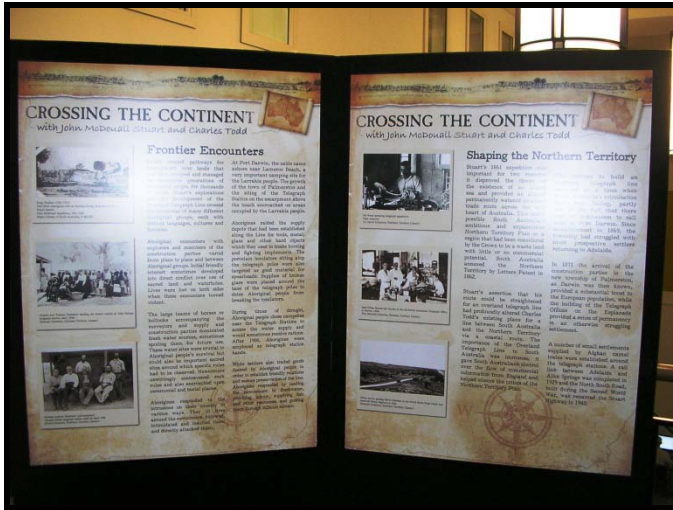
Philip Jones

The "Crossing the Continent with John McDouall Stuart and Charles Todd" Exhibition was launched at the NT Library, Parliament House on 26 July.

The Exhibition launch was followed by a talk by Philip Jones. Philip was the winner of the Chief Minister's NT History Book Award and the Prime Minister's Book Award for *Ochre and Rust*. His topic was "reflections on Stuart's Aboriginal encounters and Charles Todd's axe"

The Exhibition was on display until 30 September 2012.

Crossing the Continent with John McDouall Stuart and Charles Todd Exhibition



Artifacts from the Overland Telegraph Line



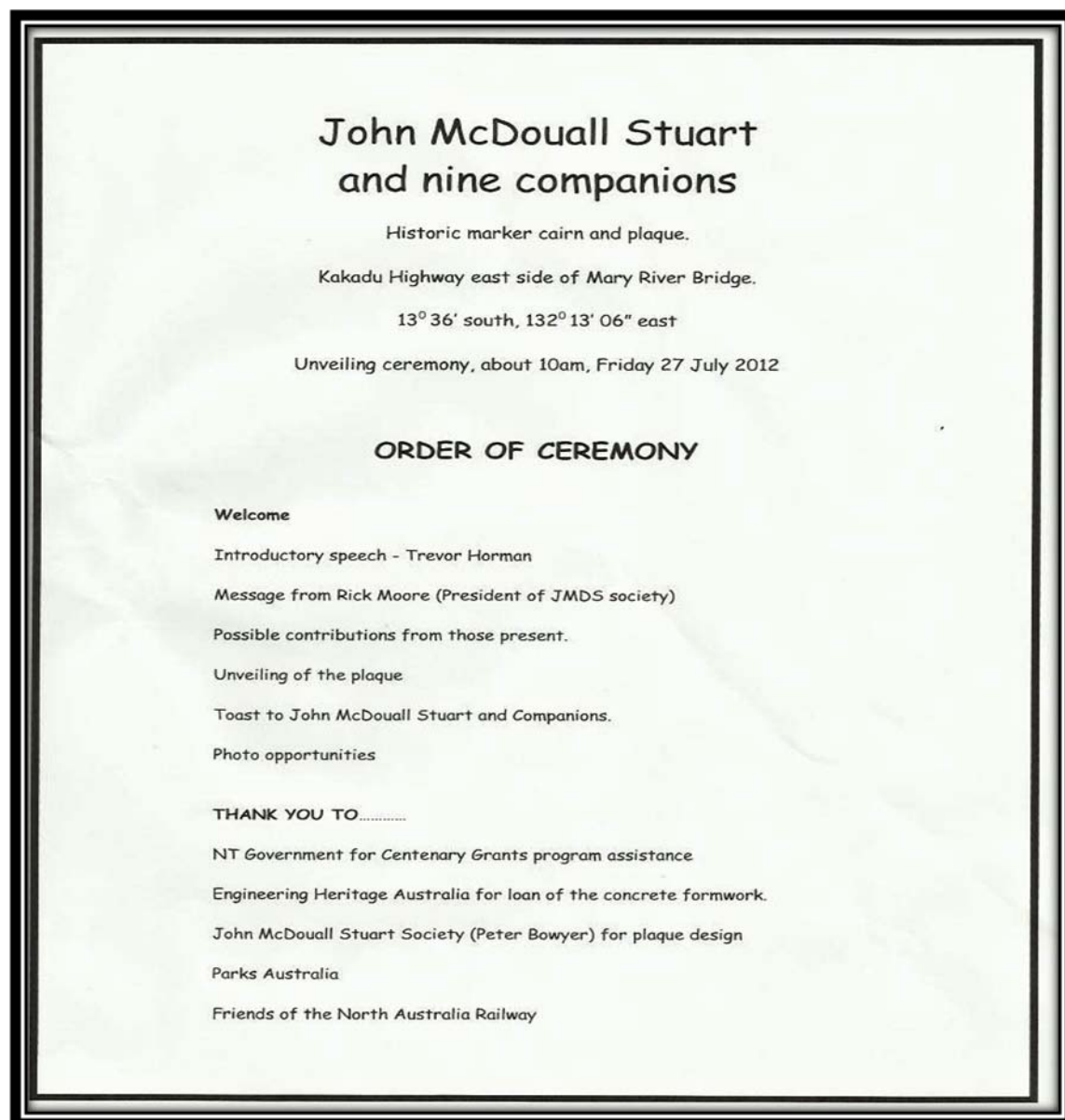
Charles Todd's axe



A sketch of Stuart by Stephen King who was a member of his northern expedition

On Friday 27 July, the celebrations concluded with the unveiling of a historical marker cairn and plaquing at two sites which were crossed by Stuart and his party. Twenty-three people left Darwin before dawn to make the 10am unveiling deadline on the Kakadu Highway east side of the Mary River Bridge (300km from Darwin). Trevor Horman commenced the ceremony which included a message from Rick Moore, President of the John McDouall Stuart Society. A champagne toast and the unveiling finalised proceedings. The ceremony was held at the same time and day that Stuart passed the spot 150 years ago. The second marker was unveiled at the Bark Hut on the Arnhem Highway in the afternoon. Forty people were present at the second unveiling. Judy Boland said "there was quite a crowd there. Everyone from inside the Bark Hut came out, plus an Adventure Tours bus drove pass- stopped and disembarked its passengers. Terry Baldwin spoke - he was great - I could have listened to him all day"

The Cairns and plaques were organised by Engineering Heritage Australia, the John McDouall Stuart Society, Parks Australia and Friends of the North Australia Railway. The NT Government provided a grant towards the project.





The cairn and plaque at Mary River.



The cairn and plaque at Bark Hut.

Photo supplied by Judy Richardson



Trevor Horman addressing the crowd

Photo supplied by Judy Richardson



Speakers Trevor Horman and local identity and land owner, Terry Baldwin.

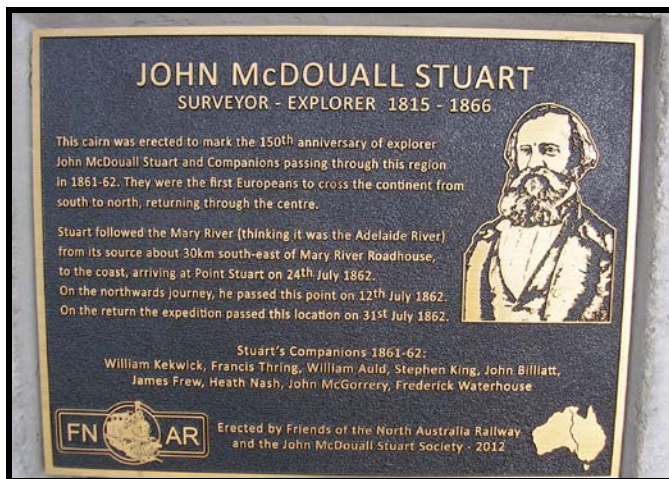
Photo supplied by Judy Richardson

A commentary of the day's activities by Trevor Horman, Engineers Australia and Friends of the North Australian Railway.

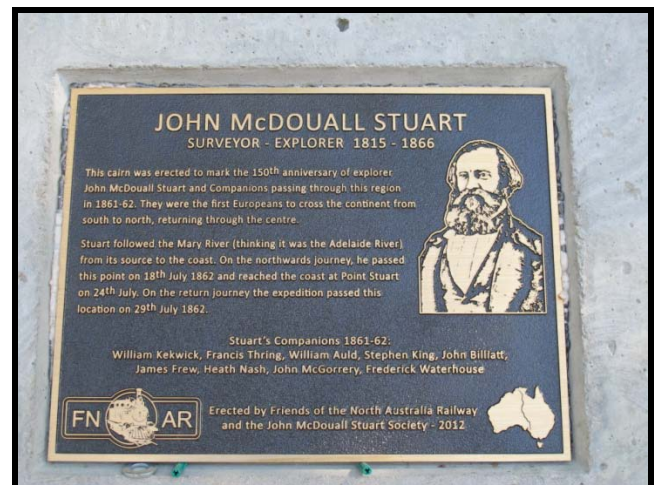
"We could not believe that Friday clicked along as well as it did. Everything seemed to go right for a change.

1. Judy Richardson and I got to the Kakadu Highway site at 0845 (after a 0530 start from Darwin) as we needed to actually install the plaque on the concrete cairn. We achieved this by 0945 just as the first visitors started to arrive.
2. We kicked off with the ceremony at about 1015 with about 25 people in attendance (including some from Katherine National Trust). The ceremony probably lasted 15 minutes with recital of excerpts from Stuart's journal and reflection upon what we know and can see 150 years later. John Lyons kindly read your message to the assemblage (thanks for that too Rick). John also contributed some valuable insights in to Stuart and his companions. I will send you my speaking notes.

3. After a coffee at the Mary River Roadhouse we traveled to Jabiru (through country similar to what Stuart would have experienced) and lunched at the Glen Murcett designed Bowali Visitor Centre (1245 to 1330).
4. We arrived at the Bark Hut Inn on the Arnhem Highway just before 3pm, and found an expectant crowd. (At this site we had installed the plaque last Saturday).
5. We commenced the ceremony at about 1515 with about 40 people in attendance. The ceremony again probably lasted 15 minutes with recital of excerpts from Stuart's journal and reflection upon what we know and can see 150 years later. Vice President Dean Harris kindly read your message to the assemblage. Local bushman, 82 year old Terry Baldwin, enthralled us with his recount of the local area and how the buffalo had changed it since Stuart saw the Red Lily's. Thankfully the red lilies are starting to reappear. Graham Thring and Dean Harris shared with us several interesting aspects of Stuart on the Mary (such as the debate about whether this really was the Adelaide River as it was not tidal). I will send you my speaking notes. Members of the Society at the Bark Hut included Dean Harris, Graham Thring, Terry Baldwin and myself (plus possibly some Harris and Thring family members)."



The plaque at Mary River



The plaque at the Bark Hut
Photo supplied by Judy Richardson

Time Capsule Buried at Pt Stuart on 7 September 2012

The burying of the time capsule at Pt Stuart completed the 150th anniversary activities. This event occurred after the main celebrations because we were waiting for permission from the traditional owners. The site selected is not available to the public but it has been GPS and is documented.

The secret squirrel capsule committee consisted of Anne and Robin Wait, Bev Phelts & Yvonne Forrest who set out from Darwin in the early hours of 7 September. We were met by Ranger Greg Peckham at Pt Stuart. Greg and Robin set about selecting a suitable spot not far from the Cairn. The digging with crowbars, root cutters and shovels commenced.

Anne and Bev gathered all the goodies together to go in the capsule. This included a list of people who attended the 24 July Pt Stuart ceremony; photographs and a write up of the day; a special Australia Post JM Stuart/Thring/Australian explorers stamps and envelopes, a 2012 Queen Elizabeth jubilee 50c coin, family information from Anne Bachelard & the Websters (descendents of the Stuart family) and NT Newspaper articles on the northern expedition.



Ranger Greg Peckham marks the spot



Robin & Anne Wait digging the hole



Greg and Robin take turns digging



Hole finished. Robin lays a mixture of fine sand and insect killer on the base



Anne and Bev place all the items in the capsule



Robin rubbing the sealant glue around the capsule cap



Robin taking the degrees from the Cairn



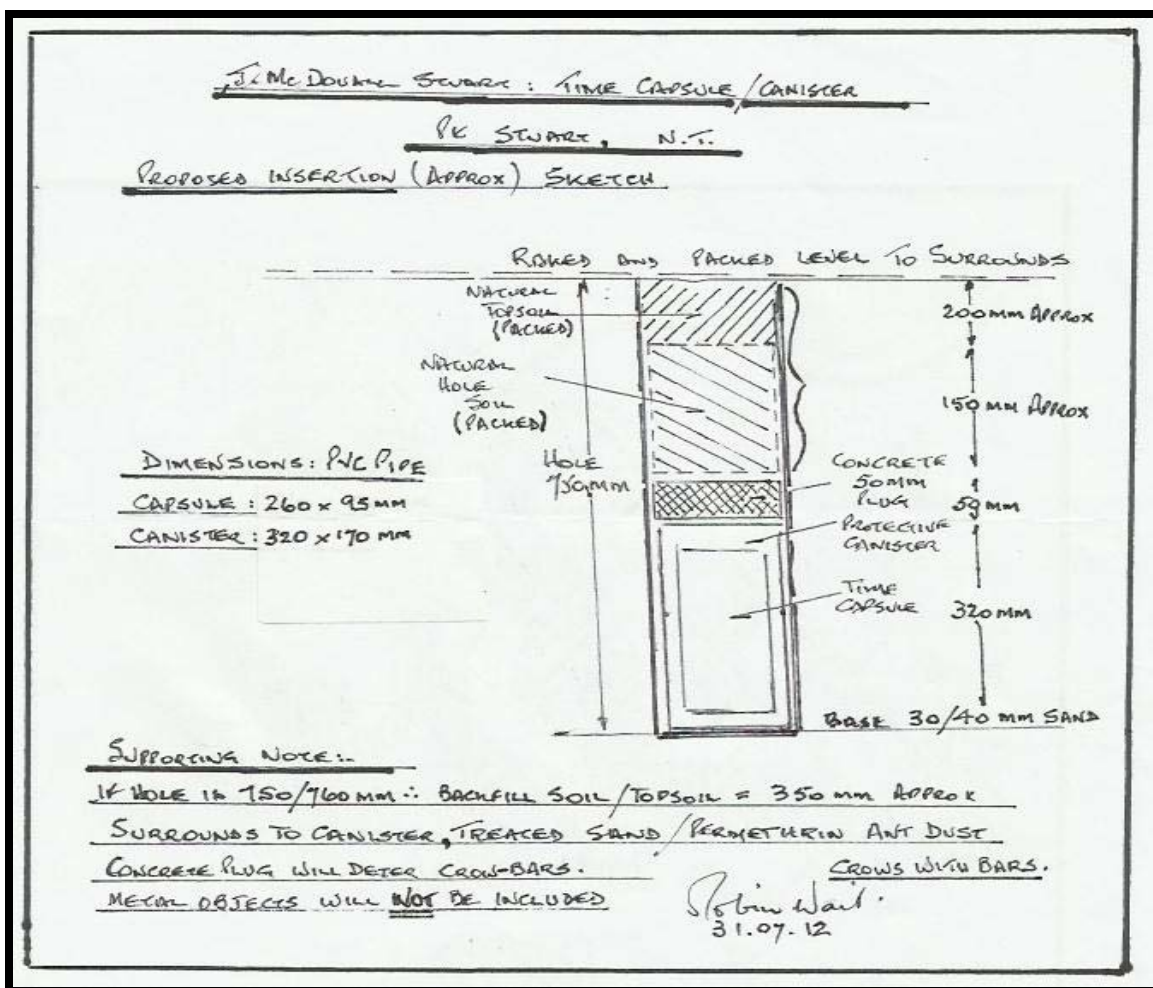
Bev Phelts opening the champagne to toast the burying of the capsule



Cheers to a job well done –
Anne Wait, Bev Phelts, Yvonne Forrest & Robin Wait



Anne Wait, Bev Phelts, Robin Wait & Ranger Greg Peckham



Hopefully some of us will still be around to witness it being opened in fifty years time at the 200th celebrations. Thanks to Greg Peckham for assisting on the day. Big Huge Thanks to Robin & Anne Wait for constructing the capsule and organising the time capsule event.